

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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SUBJECT: Task Group on Screening Tests/Performance Measures of Mattresses—
Open Flame

DATE OF MEETING: January 4, 2002

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: January 29, 2002

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME *nu*

LOCATION: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 226, room B-221, Gaithersburg, MD

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The meeting began with a summary of the results of mini-matt tests by NIST. The correlation between twin-size mattresses and mini-matts appears to be design-dependent; however, there is a great deal of noise in the data. Because of the uncertainties, the group discussed at length the likely causes—variability in various components used at different stages of the research. Cotton batting (possible boric acid content), code red foam (FR content), and the shoddy pad (fiber distribution) are the primary variables identified. These materials were provided for the studies at different times and by different suppliers. It was agreed that the best approach would be to reproduce the earlier tests with more tightly controlled materials that are consistent throughout the studies, including the pending screening test development for CPSC.

The California Bureau of Home Furnishings is interested in contributing to the study because of their mandate to have a standard for mattresses in place by January 2004. This means they must have a “final” standard for their rulemaking process by January 2003. This time schedule is challenging given the current set of problems with underlying research. California offered to consider characterizing the materials of concern and conducting the repeat tests in their laboratory. The sample construction would be done by a local producer and overseen by Al Klancnik. The group estimated the earliest these tests could begin is April 2002. The new samples would be available in time for the CPSC screening test evaluations currently scheduled for May-July.

More discussion will be needed to identify the mattress designs (changes from the original five are likely) for the repeat study and confirm California’s availability to conduct the tests.

ATTENDANCE

Task Group on Screening Tests/Performance Measures of Mattresses—Open Flame
Ignition
January 4, 2002

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